

IN THE CLAIMS

The below listing of claims replaces all prior versions of the claims.

1. (Currently Amended) A fastening and contact device configured to be mounted to an electrical conductor, which is in the form of a plate, through ~~by means of an opening in the plate a conductor that is in the form of a plate,~~ said device comprising
 - a an electrically conductive sleeve configured to be inserted into the opening of the plate, the sleeve comprising shoulders configured to that rest on a periphery of the opening of a first side of the plate, and
 - ~~wherein the device further comprises a~~ an electrically conductive ring mounted around the sleeve, ~~this the~~ ring configured ~~coming~~ to rest against the periphery of the opening of a second side of the plate, wherein the ring has a lower end generally coplanar with a lower end of the sleeve and the ring extends from the lower end around the sleeve in the direction of the shoulders, and the sleeve and the ring are configured to be held in electrical contact with the plate by a tightening means cooperating with the sleeve and a complementary device to be connected to the conductor.

2. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1, ~~further~~ ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the sleeve has a passage provided with a threading in order to cooperate with the tightening means.

3. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1, ~~further characterized in that~~ wherein the passage comprises a stop defining a place for receiving a screw head.
4. (Previously Presented) The device according to claim 3, comprising a retaining piece to cooperate with the geometry of the screw head and the inner geometry of the second part in order to impede rotation of the screw.
5. (Currently Amended) The device according to claim 1, ~~wherein further characterized in that~~ the sleeve is cylindrical, the opening is circular and the shoulders form a thin collar configured to project ~~projecting~~ out on the first side of the plate.
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (New) A system for electrically coupling and fastening an electrical conductor to a complimentary device, the system comprising:
 - a fastening and contact device mounted to the electrical conductor, which is in the form of a plate, through an opening in the plate, the fastening and contact device comprising:
 - a sleeve inserted into the opening of the plate, the sleeve comprising shoulders that rest on a periphery of the opening of a first side of the plate, and

a ring mounted around the sleeve, the ring resting against the periphery of the opening of a second side of the plate, the ring having a lower end generally coplanar with a lower end of the sleeve and the ring extends from the lower end around the sleeve in the direction of the shoulders,

wherein the sleeve and the ring are held in electrical contact with the plate by a tightening means cooperating with the sleeve and the complementary device to be connected to the conductor.

9. (New) The system according to claim 8, wherein at least one additional conductive layer or insulating layer of the conductor is disposed on the second side of the plate, and the length of the ring is defined as a function of the thickness of the additional layer.
10. (New) The system according to claim 8, wherein the conductor is a conductive plate provided with bus bars.
11. (New) A system for electrically coupling and fastening an electrical conductor to a complimentary device, the system comprising:

a fastening and contact device mounted to the electrical conductor, which is in the form of a plate, through an opening in the plate, the fastening and contact device comprising:

a sleeve inserted into the opening of the plate, the sleeve comprising shoulders that rest on a periphery of the opening of a first side of the plate, and

a ring mounted around the sleeve, the ring resting against the periphery of the opening of a second side of the plate, wherein the sleeve and the ring are held in electrical contact with the plate by a tightening means cooperating with the sleeve and the complementary device to be connected to the conductor, and at least one additional conductive layer or insulating layer of the conductor is disposed on the second side of the plate, and the length of the ring is defined as a function of the thickness of the additional layer.

12. (New) The system of claim 11, wherein the conductor is a conductive plate provided with bus bars.